

In the Claims:

Replace all of the existing claims with the following eight amended claims.

1. (Currently Amended) Headset for bicycles, cycles and the like of the type comprising, in a one-piece cartridge, a bearing assembly (3) inserted between an outer cup (2) and an inner cup (4), the outer cup bearing against ~~the~~ an interior wall of a bore in ~~the~~ a head tube, ~~characterized in that it comprises, as one piece, wherein said cartridge including~~ includes a floating reinforced seal, on ~~which said seal~~ there is positioned a ring which ~~itself~~ ring on ~~the~~ an outside has a seal bearing against the outer cup, said ring being in contact with the inner cup of the cartridge, ~~the~~ a ring housing, in its an upper part, an O-ring and a compression ring in order to give compression stresses.

2. (Currently Amended) Headset according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the outer cup has~~ is designed on its interior wall (2d) to have a cut-out on an interior wall (2f) allowing a profiled seal (5) to float and housing an insert (6) to compensate for misalignment of ~~the~~ contact regions.

3. (Currently Amended) Headset according to ~~either one of Claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the outer cup comprises a cylindrical wall (2a) force-fitting into the head tube, continued in an ~~the~~ upper part by a horizontal part (2b) forming a flange and by a conical lower wall (2e) directed inwards and forming ~~the~~ a seat for the bearings.

4. (Currently Amended) Headset according to ~~either one of Claims 1 and 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the inner cup (4) has a conical profile (4a) with a bottom part (4b) and a vertical straight wall (4e), ~~the~~ an upper end (4d) having a cut (4e), ~~the~~ an upper plane (4f) of the inner cup adjacent to said cut being straight and horizontal and exhibiting a nose (4g) on which the seal (5) rests.

5. (Currently Amended) Headset according to ~~Claim~~ claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the seal (5) is mounted to float in the cut-out (2f) ~~formed on the profile of the outer cup and in that the cut-out (2f) is made over part of the~~ a height of ~~the~~ a wall of said outer cup over a distance greater than ~~the~~ a thickness of the seal which is mounted and positioned by clipping,

said seal being mounted in the cut-out (2f) while being held in place with the nose part forming a stop.

6. (Currently Amended) Headset according to ~~Claim~~ claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the seal has an insert.

7. (Currently Amended) Headset according to ~~Claim~~ claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~inset~~ insert is made of brass.

8. (Currently Amended) Headset for bicycles, cycles and the like of the type comprising, in a one-piece cartridge, a bearing assembly (3) inserted between an outer cup (2) and an inner cup (4), the outer cup bearing against the an interior wall of a bore in the a head tube, ~~characterized in that it comprises, as one piece,~~ wherein said cartridge ~~including~~ includes a floating reinforced seal, on ~~which~~ said seal there is positioned a ring which ~~itself~~ ring on the an outside has a seal bearing against the outer cup, said ring being in contact with the inner cup of the cartridge.